mated to have increased by 10.5 percent during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98.

National Jute Programme

2623. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) aided National Jute Programme has failed to develop economically viable mini jute mills;

(b) if so, what arc the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps arc taken or proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) No. Sir. UNDP had provided equipments to 6 entrepreneurs through New Central Jute Mills, for setting up spinning units at different locations in the country. Out of these, 2 units arc at present under profitable commercial production. Rest of the units could not be commissioned due to some teething problems including delay in supply of equipment, low voltage supply, non-mobilisation of resources etc.

(c) In order to determine the viability of mini jute spinning projects these have been subjected to tcchno-cconomic appraisals and, inter-firm comparisons, to determine productivity level, the return expected and measures needed to improve their productivity and profits.

The Government has introduced Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme in April 1995 under which entrepreneurs have been given freedom to procure equipment from any vendor for setting up mini spinning unit. A number of applications have been received under this scheme of which 29 have been approved and 14 have gone into production.

लखनऊ स्थित परिधान डिजाइनिंग संस्थान को अनुमोदन

2624. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी**: क्या वस्त्र मंत्री 10 जून, 1998 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 1647 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने लखनऊ स्थित परिधान डिजाइनिंग संस्थान के प्रस्ताव को स्वीकृति दे दी है;

(ख) क्या इस संस्थान हेतु प्रस्तावित राशि में केन्द्रीय सरकार के अंशदान के रूप में 3.84 करोड़ रूपए की राशि केन्द्र से राज्य को प्राप्त होनी थी ;

(ग़) यदि हां, तो क्या उक्त राशि प्राप्त हो गई है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं , तो उसके क्या कारण है और इस संबंध में पूरा ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशिराम राणा): (क) जी, नहीं। राष्ट्रीय फैशन प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान का एक केन्द्र लखनऊ में खोलने का एक प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है जिसकी जांच की जा रही है।

(ख) से (घ) उपरोक्त (क) के मद्देनजर प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Woollen Textile Industry

2625. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps taken to improve Indian Wool Textile market to make it globally competitive?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): The wollcn industry in India is both in the organised and decentralised sector. To supplement the efforts of State Govcrnmcnt(s), various steps have been taken by the Central Government to improve the Indian woollen sector so as to make it globally competitive. Some of the important steps taken are indicated below:—

(i) Gradual decrease in customs duty on import of apparel grade raw wool from the level of 45% to 20%.